

Prelim Bits 04-03-2017

INS Viraat

\n\n

\n

- INS Viraat, the second aircraft carrier in the Indian naval fleet is soon to be decommissioned. INS Vikrant is India's first aircraft carrier.

\n

- INS Viraat is the second centaur class aircraft carrier in service.

\n

- Earlier known as HMS Hermes, it served Royal Navy of UK from 1950 to 1980's and later re-commissioned in Indian Navy in 1987.

\n

- It holds the Guinness Record for being the oldest-serving warship.

\n

- It played a pivotal role in the Indian peacekeeping operations in Sri Lanka and the 1999 Kargil War.

\n

- It also took part in major operations like Op. Parakram - a India Pakistan in the LOC and Op. Pawan by IPKF to take control of Jaffna from the LTTE as part of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

\n

- The latest deployment of Viraat was in the International Fleet Review (IFR-2016) at Visakhapatnam.

\n

\n\n

MAVEN

\n\n

\n

- The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN), NASA's spacecraft, has been orbiting Mars for the past two years.

\n

- MAVEN is studying Mars' upper atmosphere, ionosphere and its interactions with the sun and solar wind.

\n

- An important aspect of the MAVEN mission is studying how early Mars

lost much of its atmosphere.

\n

- This atmospheric loss may have been partially responsible for Mars' transition from a planet capable of supporting liquid surface water to the dry, desert world we know today.

\n

- Recently, MAVEN has avoided its head-on collision with Phobos, the natural satellite of Mars.

\n

- The other one is Deimos. Phobos is the innermost and larger of the two.

\n

\n\n

Ochre Colored Pottery (OCP) Culture

\n\n

\n

- When the Indus Valley Civilization was flourishing, a parallel culture called OCP Culture is thought to have co-existed in the fertile plains between the Ganga and the Yamuna.

\n

- The people who used ochre pottery and their culture are specific to the doab region.

\n

- The first remnants of OCP culture were found in Hastinapur, in Meerut district, in 1951 and later in Etah district of UP.

\n

- OCP marked the last stage of the North Indian Bronze Age and was succeeded by the Iron Age.

\n

- Pottery Culture in Ancient India -

\n

\n\n

\n

1. Indus Valley Civilization - Burnt Black Painted Red Ware

\n

2. Iron Age (1000 BC) - Painted Grey Ware in North India and the Gangetic plain and Red Polished ware in Gujarat Area.

\n

\n\n

Nasi II island

\n\n

\n

- The island is part of Gahirmatha Scantuary in Odisha, one of the world's largest nesting ground of olive ridley turtles.

\n

- There are seven species of marine turtles in the world.

\n

- The Olive Ridley is the smallest of the sea turtles and **omnivorous** in diet.

\n

- The olive ridleys are found only in warmer waters, including the southern Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

\n

- They are known for their behavior of synchronized nesting in mass numbers, termed **arribadas**.

\n

- They nests twice/thrice in a year.

\n

- They are listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List and in Appendix I of CITES.

\n

- Turtles are adapted to aquatic life whereas Tortoises are almost exclusively land-dwelling animals.

\n

- The term “terrapins” is sometimes used for turtles that are semi-aquatic.

\n

\n\n

\n\n



NESTING SITES OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES

\n



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering